

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 HA-05 IO-13 NEAE-00
/108 W

-----017179 041205Z /45

P R 041000Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7807
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 3578

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, AF
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER TARAKI DENIES THAT HIS MOVEMENT IS
COMMUNIST OR UNDER FOREIGN CONTROL

DEPT PASS USICA

REF: KABUL 3548

1. THE EMBASSY'S UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE FULL TEXT
OF PREMINE MINISTER TARAKI'S MAY 3 STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

ENEMIES, AND THE COUNTRIES WHICH TRY TO STOP
GOVERNMENTS WHICH WANT TO UPGRADE THE STANDARDS OF
LIVING IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES, STIR UP AND DISTURB
THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE BY THEIR PROPAGANDA. SO
WHEN AFGHANISTAN ENTERED A NEW DESTINY THROUGH THE
SUPPORT OF ITS OWN PEOPLE AND ITS BRAVE ARMY, BY
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OVERTHROWING THE OLD AND CRUEL REGIME, THESE COUNTRIES
TRIED TO COVER THE FACTS BY THEIR PROPAGANDA THROUGH
RADIOS, PRESS AND OTHER CHANNELS. INTERNATIONAL
INFORMATION REPORTS CLAIM THAT A COUP WAS ARRANGED
BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN AFGHANISTAN WITH THE
SUPPORT OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY. FIRST OF ALL, THE
REVOLUTION OF APRIL 27 (SAUR 7) WAS THE BEGINNING

OF A DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION. THIS REVOLUTION STARTED IN DAYLIGHT THROUGH THE WILL OF ALL MEN AND WOMEN IN THE COUNTRY. THIS REVOLUTION HAS NOT BEEN STARTED BY THE SUPPORT OF ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY, BUT BY ARMED AND BRAVE FORCES OF AFGHANISTAN ITSELF, AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF MILLIONS OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE. SECOND, THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A PARTY WITH THE NAME OF COMMUNIST PARTY IN AFGHANISTAN AND THERE NEVER WILL BE. INTERNATIONAL PROPAGANDA CLAIMS THAT DURING THE REVOLUTION THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WERE KILLED OR EXECUTED, ONE OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS WAS MURDERED, AND THE REVOLUTIONISTS ACTED AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS AND AGAINST ISLAMIC RULES. OUR COUNTRYMEN WITNESSED THAT NO MORE THAN A HUNDRED PEOPLE WERE KILLED BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN RESISTING. THIS GOVERNMENT FOLLOWS ALL THE ISLAMIC RULES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE TEACHINGS OF THE KORAN. THESE INTERNATIONAL PROPAGANDISTS SAY THAT AFGHANISTAN HAS BECOME ONE OF THE SATELLITES OF THIS OR THAT COUNTRY AFTER THE REVOLUTION AND HAS GIVEN UP ITS INDEPENDENCE AND NON-ALIGNED POLICY. I SHOULD SAY THAT AFGHANISTAN IS FREE OF ALL THE INFLUENCE OF THESE COUNTRIES WHICH HAD NADIR SHAH, ZAHIR SHAH AND DAOUD'S REGIME UNDER THEIR CONTROL. AFTER THE LAST REVOLUTION OF SAUR 7, AFGHANISTAN FOLLOWS AN INDEPENDENT, PEACEFUL POLICY WITH OTHER NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, AND TRIES TO HAVE FRIENDLY TIES

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WITH ALL THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH RECOGNIZE OUR REVOLUTION AS A NATIONAL AND INTERNAL REVOLUTION. THE COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE TO BE AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY. END TEXT.

2. COMMENT: TARAKI'S STATEMENT OBVIOUSLY REFLECTS A CERTAIN SENSITIVITY ON THE PART OF THE NEW REGIME TO FOREIGN BROADCASTS WHICH HAVE CHARACTERIZED HIS AND HIS COLLEAGUES' POLITICAL COLORATION AS PRO-SOVIET COMMUNIST, AND TO FOREIGN BROADCASTS ABOUT HIGH CASUALTIES. CENSORSHIP LEVIED ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS -- MOST REFERENCES TO "MOSCOW" OR THE "SOVIET UNION" HAVE BEEN EXCISED BY THE AUTHORITIES-- ATTEMPTING TO FILE STORIES, REFLECTS THIS SAME SENSITIVITY. NO TELEX FILING AT ALL WAS ALLOWED MAY 3.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 3578

DEPT PASS USICA

3. TARAHI'S INSISTENCE THAT THE REVOLUTION WAS A SPONTANEOUS AND INTERNAL AFFAIR IS A THEME PROBABLY DESIGNED PRINCIPALLY FOR FOREIGN CONSUMPTION, AND TO COMPLEMENT THE REGIME'S PROTESTATIONS THAT IT WILL PURSUE A NEUTRAL AND NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY, AND THAT AFGHANISTAN IS NOT ANYONE'S SATELLITE. HIS INSISTENCE THAT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A PARTY IN AFGHANISTAN NAMED THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN IS TECHNICALLY CORRECT. (HIS PARTY HAS BEEN NAMED THE KHALQ - "MASSES" - SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1965.) THE OTHER COMMUNIST GROUPING USED THE NAME "PARCHAM", WHICH MEANS "BANNER." IN THIS REGARD, IT IS PERHAPS WORTH NOTING THAT THE KHALQ HAS NEVER BEEN DESIGNATED AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIST PARTY BY THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT'S LEADERS IN MOSCOW. THIS PARTICULAR STANCE IS UNDOUBTEDLY DESIGNED TO REASSURE THE MASSES OF THE AFGHAN POPULATION (WHO ARE DEVOUTLY MUSLIM) THAT THEIR NEW RULERS ARE NOT, IN FACT, COM-
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MUNISTS, BUT NATIONALISTS. WE FIND THIS ARGUMENT DISINGENUOUS AT BEST, SINCE A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME, ETC

4. TARAHI'S REPEATED REFERENCES TO ISLAM AND THE KORAN ARE ALSO NECESSARILY SELF-SERVING IN THIS TRADITIONAL MUSLIM COUNTRY. THE ISLAMIC THEME HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL

PART OF THE REGIME'S PROPAGANDA PROGRAMMING SINCE THE COUP, BUT THERE ARE SOME AFGHANS WHO DETECT A SLIGHT DEEMPHASIS ALONG THESE LINES IN RECENT DAYS. TARAQI'S DENIAL THAT HIS FOLLOWERS HAD EXECUTED A LEADING MULLAH WAS AIMED AT DEFUSING A RUMOR TO THIS EFFECT MAKING THE ROUNDS IN THE PAST FEW DAYS. MANY WORKING-CLASS AFGHANS BELIEVED THE RUMOR, AND IT IS QUESTIONABLE HOW MANY WILL BELIEVE TARAQI'S DENIAL.

5. TARAQI'S REFERENCE TO CASUALTIES, AND HIS IMPLICATION THAT ONLY ABOUT 100 DIED BECAUSE THEY "RESISTED," WAS RESPONSE TO SOME FOREIGN NEWS STORIES, AS WELL AS TO LOCAL RUMORS, THAT UP TO TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE WERE KILLED DURING THE FIGHTING. WE HAVE NO FIRM DATA ON OVERALL CASUALTIES AS YET, BUT THERE WERE CERTAINLY MORE THAN TARAQI IS WILLING TO ADMIT PUBLICLY. (FYI: ACCORDING TO INFORMATION WE NOW HAVE, THE FIGURE IS POSSIBLY AS LEAST 5,000 -- UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 10,000.)

6. IN SUM, THE STATEMENT REPRESENTS AN EFFORT BY THE NEW LEADERSHIP TO PORTRAY ITSELF IN THE MOST FAVORABLE MANNER, BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. WHILE WE STILL HESITATE TO DESCRIBE TARAQI'S GOVERNMENT AS A HARD-LINE, PRO-SOVIET COMMUNIST REGIME, THE BACK-GROUNDS OF THE CABINET LEAVE NO DOUBT AS TO THAT GROUP'S PAST POLITICAL LEANINGS. NEVERTHELESS, MANY SUB-CABINET

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MEMBERS OF THE FORMER REGIME ARE IN THEIR OFFICES, AND THE BULK OF THE BUREAUCRACY CONTINUES TO FUNCTION IN MUCH THE SAME MANNER AS BEFORE. ONLY TIME WILL REVEAL THE OVERALL PROGRAMS AND TRUE DIRECTION OF THIS REGIME.

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